

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Park et al. (US 6,335,276 B1).

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. ('276) in view of Kim (US 6,225,130 B1) and Park et al. (US 6,287,899 B1).

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. ('276) in view of Park et al. ('899).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1, and amended the specification to correct a minor informality. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are pending for further consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Park et al. (US 6,335,276 B1), claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. ('276) in view of Kim (US 6,225,130 B1) and Park et al. (US 6,287,899 B1), and claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. ('276) in view of Park et al. ('899).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as being based upon references, taken individually and in combination, that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features recited in amended independent claim 1, and hence dependent claims 2-17.

With respect to independent claim 1, as amended, the applied art, whether taken singly or combined, does not teach or suggest a combination including a step of forming a pixel electrode on the passivation layer such that the pixel electrode electrically contacts an upper surface of the second capacitor electrode through a contact hole formed in the insulating layer.

The Office Action alleges that FIG. 19 of Park et al. ('276) discloses an active matrix substrate after forming a pixel electrode. Applicants respectfully disagree. In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, the pixel electrode 82 in FIGs. 3-5 of Park et al. ('276) is formed having an end portion that directly contacts a conductor island 68 of a storage capacitor. Thus, Park et al. ('276) does not disclose forming a pixel electrode on a passivation layer such that the pixel electrode electrically contacts an upper surface of a second capacitor electrode through a contact hole formed in an insulating layer, as recited by amended independent claim 1.

Applicants further assert that the Office Action does not rely on Park et al. ('899) and/or Kim to teach these features. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Park et al. ('899) and/or Kim cannot remedy the deficiencies noted above.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-17 are allowable for all of the reasons discussed above with regard to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as the individual features each of dependent claims 2-17 recite.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) should be withdrawn because Park et al. ('276), Park et al. ('899), and Kim, whether taken individually or in combination, neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in amended independent claim 1, and hence dependent claims 2-17.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph [0056] has been amended as follows:

-- In FIG. 8B, the drain side edge portion "F" of the pixel electrode 118 contacts side and upper portions of the drain electrode 114. The pixel electrode 118 further contacts the second capacitor electrode 130 via the capacitor contact hole [108] 204. In addition, the gate pad electrode 107 contacts the gate pad 106 via the gate pad contact hole 108, and the data pad electrode 123 contacts the data pad 124 via the data pad contact hole 119.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of fabricating a liquid crystal display device, comprising the steps of:

forming a first metal layer on a substrate to form a gate line including a gate electrode, a gate pad, and a first capacitor electrode;

forming an insulating layer, an active layer, and a second metal layer on the substrate;

patterning the second metal layer to form a data line including a data pad, a source electrode, a drain electrode, and a second capacitor electrode;

forming a passivation layer to cover the second metal layer;

forming a photoresist on the passivation layer;

exposing the photoresist using a mask having a light shielding portion, a light transmissive portion, and a semi-transmissive portion;

forming a first photoresist portion, a second photoresist portion, and a third photoresist portion;

patterning the passivation layer, the active layer, and the insulating layer; and

forming a pixel electrode on the passivation layer such that the pixel electrode electrically contacts an upper surface of the second capacitor electrode through a contact hole formed in the insulating layer.